

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 18241 171403Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
EB-03 PM-03 DODE-00 TRSE-00 /038 W
----- 043979 /43

R 171329Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0137
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 18241

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR
SUBJECT: "SECRET" VISIT BY PM'S SECRETARY P.N. DHAR TO SHAH

1. INDIAN PRESS DECEMBER 4 CARRIED BRIEF ITEM NOTING THAT PM GANDHI'S SECRETARY P.N. DHAR HAD RETURNED DEC 3 FROM "LIGHTNING" VISIT TO TEHRAN WHERE HE MET THE SHAH DEC 1. ROUTINE INQUIRIES THROUGH IRANIAN EMBASSY AND MEA ELICITED BLANK STARES. WE HEARD RUMORS THE FOLLOWING WEEK THAT VISIT WAS RELATED TO INDIAN EFFORT TO SOOTHE IRANIAN ANNOYANCE AT INDIAN LOBBYING AGAINST OIL PRICE INCREASES IN PARIS, AND ALTERNATIVELY THAT IT WAS CONNECTED WITH IRANIAN CONCERN OVER DELAYS IN WORK AT KUDRAMUKH IRON ORE PROJECT IN SOUTH INDIA.

2. WE NOW HEAR FROM SENIOR INDIAN EDITOR, WHO SAYS HE KNOWS UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT HIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT, THAT DHAR TRIP WAS TO PROBE SHAH ON BHUTTO'S ULTIMATE INTENTIONS SO FAR AS NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT AND FURTHER NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT WAS CONCERNED, AND TO PROVIDE INDIAN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PAKISTAN PROCUREMENT OF A-7S FROM HIGHEST INDIAN LEVEL. VISIT WAS TO HAVE BEEN SECRET BUT WAS "BLOWN" BY SECRET

SECRET

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DHAR'S MEETING CORRESPONDENT AT AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN.

3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFO EMBASSY TEHRAN MAY ELICIT ON DHAR'S VISIT.
SCHNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR, (DHAR, P N)
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